

CLAIMS:

1. A method for packaging a chair, the method comprising:

providing a chair comprising (i) an air permeable bladder and (ii) a filler material disposed within the air permeable bladder, the chair being selectively compressed when air is removed from within the chair;

placing the chair in a vacuum chamber;

removing a substantial amount of air from the chair; and

allowing the chair to partially refill with air, wherein the vacuum chamber has a partial opening therein.
2. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein removing a substantial amount of air from the chair comprises suctioning the air from the chair using a vacuum source.
3. A method as recited in claim 2, wherein removing a substantial amount of air from the chair comprises using a first vacuum source and subsequently a second high-powered vacuum source.
4. A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the vacuum chamber is allowed to remain partially open after the chair is placed in a storage container.

5. A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the storage container has an opening which is selectively opened and closed, further comprising sealing the opening of the storage container after the chair is allowed to partially refill out to the wall of the storage container.

6. A method as recited in claim 5, wherein sealing the opening of the storage container comprises:

closing the opening of the storage container so that a plume extends therefrom;

and

applying adhesive to the inside of the plume.

7. A method as recited in claim 6, further comprising flaring the plume so that the inside of the plume is exposed and constricting the plume so that the adhesive remains on the inside of the plume.

8. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein removing a substantial amount of air from the chair comprises compressing the chair down to about 1% to about 99% of the original volume.

9. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein removing a substantial amount of air from the chair comprises compressing the chair down to about 4% to about 50% of the original volume.

10. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein a substantial amount of air is removed from the chair, then allowed to refill with air until reaching about 8% to about 50% of the chair's original volume.

11. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein a substantial amount of air is removed from the chair, then allowed to refill with air until reaching about 10% to about 25% of the chair's original volume.

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12. A method for packaging and shipping a chair, the method comprising:

forming a furniture assembly comprising a chair disposed inside a vacuum chamber, wherein the vacuum chamber comprises an opening which is selectively sealed and unsealed, the chair having an air permeable bladder housing compressible filler material, the compressible filler material being selectively compressible;

connecting the vacuum chamber in communication with a vacuum source;

selectively compressing the compressible filler material using the vacuum source; and

placing the furniture assembly in a storage container with the opening of the vacuum chamber unsealed.

13. The method as recited in claim 12, further comprising connecting the vacuum chamber in communication with a high-powered vacuum source to selectively compress the compressible filler material to a highly compressed state.

14. The method as recited in claim 12, wherein selectively compressing the compressible filler material comprises compressing the chair down to about 4% to about 50% of its original volume.

15. The method as recited in claim 12, wherein selectively compressing the compressible filler material comprises compressing the chair down to about 5% to about 25% of its original volume.

16. The method as recited in claim 12, further comprising removing the packaged furniture assembly from the storage container and removing the chair from the vacuum chamber, wherein the chair refills to substantially the original volume after removal from the vacuum chamber.

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17. A method for manufacturing and packaging a chair, the method comprising:
providing an air permeable bladder;
placing a filler material within the air permeable bladder such that the chair is
selectively compressed when air is removed from within the chair; and
suctioning a substantial amount of air from the chair with a vacuum source.

18. A method as recited in claim 17, further comprising placing the chair in a
storage container such that the chair is allowed to partially refill with air while in the
storage container and is allowed to completely refill with air when removed from the
storage container.

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